

Mayor Schaumburg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Schaumburg read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the minutes of December 26, 2006 as presented.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Insel, Shea)
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine seconded by Mr. Shea to approve the minutes of January 1, 2007 as presented.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marjorie Nathanson, Executive Director of the Hunterdon Museum of Art, received a letter from the State Department of Environmental Protection stating that the low interest rate loan would be rescinded if not signed by February 2, 2007. Ms. Nathanson asked Council to sign the loan agreement and pass a Resolution stipulating that the funds could not be borrowed unless voted on by the Mayor and Council. Mr. Cushing will review the loan documents and discussion will continue at the January 23, 2007 Council Meeting. Mr. Ragozine questioned once the money is approved, who requests it. The Museum would make the request. Mr. Cutter explained that the loans are based on the estimates of the dam and dike project. The DEP has to approve the funds being requested.

Ron Williams, merchant of Balic Winery, 80 East Main Street, discussed a visit paid to him by the Code Enforcement Officer on Saturday, January 6, 2007, when the officer “ordered” his wife Joan to remove the temporary sign from the front of their store. Mayor Schaumburg explained that the Sign Committee is attempting to enforce the temporary sign ordinance and is scheduling a meeting with the Town Planner regarding permanent signs. Sandwich board signs are prohibited. Joan Schaming, Balic Winery, said the sign in front of her store is just a sign showing daily specials or hours and the ordinance does not refer to operational signs. Mr. Williams and Ms. Schaming were directed to approach the Sign Committee with their suggestions. The Sign Committee has the authority to make recommendations to the Council.

Joelle Garber, 137 Leigh Street, announced a cut-a-thon to be held at Arlene's Beauty Shop on Main Street on Saturday, January 27, 2007 from 1-6 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Higgins family.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to approve the monthly reports for the month of December and year end 2006:

Administrator's Report, Clerk's Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control Account Year End and Zoning Officer Construction Official Report, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector's Report, Tax Collector's Report, Water Collector's Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent's Report

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Correspondence received from Brian Mulchay requesting guardrails in front of the Shell Station at Exit 15 for the safety of pedestrians. Mayor Schaumburg stated that Chief Matheis has already forwarded a letter to DOT requesting same following the last Council meeting.
2. Mayor Schaumburg attended the State of the State Address today in Trenton, an interesting experience. 70% of the speech related to Property Tax Reform, followed by consolidation of Municipalities and pension reform.

WATER REFUND

Water Collector, Nancy Burgess, is requesting a water refund to be issued in the amount of \$15.79. A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine to grant the refund as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #32-07 – TAX SALE REDEMPTION

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Resolution #32-07 authorizing the Treasurer to issue a check in the amount of \$1,943.75 to Austin Stewart Partners.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #33-07 – TAX SALE REDEMPTION

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #33-07 authorizing the Treasurer to issue a check in the amount of \$155.90 to James Pilewski.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #34-07 – RESOLUTION CLARIFYING APPOINTMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #34-07 vacating the resolution of January 1, 2007 appointing a Chair for the Parks and Playground Commission and recognizing that the Commission is the body to appoint a chair.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #35-07 – SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

A motion was made Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #35-07. Mr. Cutter explained that the project bids for the Alton Place / Pittstown Road Sewer Project came in at a good price, by passing this Resolution, funds will be made available prior to adopting the 2007 budget.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #07-01 – CAPITAL ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Ordinance #07-01 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #07-01
CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON SEWER UTILITY,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF
CLINTON SEWER UTILITY AND APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$150,000
FROM THE SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A copy of this ordinance will be published in the January 24, 2007 edition of the Hunterdon Review. The second reading and public hearing will be held February 13, 2007.

(A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes)

ANSUYA WATER AGREEMENT – TAX SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Water Agreement and Tax Settlement Agreement with Ansuya Enterprise of Clinton, LLC.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Hunterdon County Housing Corporation provided information for Senior Citizens and the Disabled entitled "Are you safe?"
2. Confirmation of Compliance from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Stormwater Management Plan. Mayor Schaumburg thanked Mr. Cutter for a great job!

3. Letter received from Barry Bittenmaster expressing his concern of the safety of pedestrians walking along Route 173 in front of the Shell Gas Station. Mr. Bittenmaster was advised by Mayor Schaumburg of the request already submitted to the NJDOT by Chief Matheis.
4. Information received from Susan Bass Levin regarding assistance for low income residents.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Councilman Harrison

1. Fire Company – 45 people will be traveling to Ephrata, Pennsylvania to see the new fire truck.
2. Water Committee meeting Wednesday, January 11 @ 8:30 a.m.
3. Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Business and Government, Friday @ 8:00 a.m.
4. SWAC meeting, January 16th.
5. Personnel meeting Friday, January 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Councilman Shea

1. Councilman Shea has yet to attend any committee meetings, but has talked to the chairs and is becoming acquainted with the members.

Councilwoman Insel

1. Planning Board meeting January 16th - Re-organization and Meeting to follow.
2. Historic Commission, January 17th @ 7:00 p.m.
3. Smart Growth regular meeting changed to January 24, due to Budget meeting on the 18th.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Roads meeting February 6th @ 8:00 a.m.

Clerk Covino

1. Budget meeting dates January 11, 18, 25th and February 1, 2007.
2. Rabies Clinic will be held January 13, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the municipal barn.

Councilman Ragozine

1. Parks and Playgrounds Commission – awaiting Auditor's Report – matter will be discussed at the next Parks and Playgrounds meeting.

Kathy Olsen, CFO

Distributed the new format of the bill list.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. The new enhanced recycling program has begun, FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) will be placed on the Web Site.
2. 47 Leigh Street project going well, choosing colors, doors and siding.
3. Route 78 overpass on Leigh Street, requesting fencing to protect pedestrians and children from walkway along the school path and passing under the bridge. Letter to be sent to NJDOT.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of December 15 – December 28, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Pender, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RESOLUTION #36-07

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to enter into Executive Session by moving Resolution #36-07, to discuss Personnel.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, return to the Regular Council Meeting in order to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #37-07 – APPOINTMENT OF FIRE OFFICIAL

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #37-07 appointing Jack Daniels on an interim basis until January 23, 2007.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Shea seconded by Mr. Ragozine to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor